

PATENT *Ref*
FW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steven G. Fry, Shantanu Sarkar
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS SUPPORTING NETWORK
COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH A FIREWALL
Serial No.: 09/456,692 Filed: December 9, 1999
Examiner: Carl G. Colin Group Art Unit: 2136
Attorney Docket No.: CIS0044US

Austin, Texas
August 6, 2004

MAIL STOP RCE
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P. O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)


Dear Sir:


This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. Please consider and enter the Preliminary Amendment, which is being submitted with this request.

The RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is authorized in an accompanying transmittal letter. Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance in light of the Preliminary Amendment which accompanies this RCE.

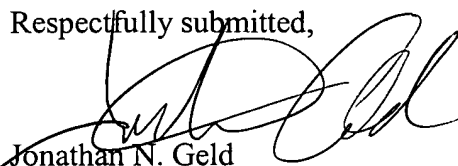
Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions concerning this request or the above-identified patent application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 6, 2004.


Attorney for Applicant(s)


Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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Washington, D. C. 20231**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REMARKS**

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Advisory Action dated July 2, 2004, and the Final Office Action dated March 11, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire June 11, 2004. Accompanying this response is a two-month Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for Extension of Time, setting a new time for response to September 2, 2004.

The following Amendments and Remarks are submitted for entry along with the accompanying Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Further examination and consideration are requested.

Amendments to the Specification. No Amendments to the Specification are presented in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings. No Amendments to the Drawings are presented in this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.